



District 127 - August 2015

September 1, 2015

Dear Fellow Texan,

Thank you for your loyal subscription to my monthly state newsletter. Due to the increase in our reach, we've been required to switch servers and to a new system for our monthly communication with you. That being said, if you would like to still be subscribed to my monthly updates, please be sure to keep an eye on your inbox for information regarding the changes. As always, if you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, just reply to this email, and we'll be sure to take you off the list for our *new* newsletter, coming October 1, 2015.

This month's newsletter will outline what was going on in Austin this past month, policy focus from last session, and a few pieces of information that we believe will be useful for you and your family for the upcoming month. With school back in full swing, and today being the effective date for approximately 50% of the new laws passed by the legislature, September is going to be a busy month.

Also, please take a moment to find me on social media. These websites are the best way to keep in touch with me on a day-to-day basis. You can find me on Facebook [here](#), and you can follow me on Twitter [here](#).

If you have questions about specific policy areas, or need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff. Our contact information can be found at the bottom of this email. We're always happy to help you.

Have a great month.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty

What's Going On in Austin?

September 1, 2015 - Effective Date

September 1, 2015 is a big day for the Texas Legislature. As the effective date for over 704 provisions for bills passed during the 84th Legislative Session, as well as a few provisions from bills passed during the 82nd and 83rd Legislative Sessions, there are several things changing in the state of Texas. The biggest piece of legislation going into effect today is the new Texas Budget (House Bill 1) for the 2016-2017 biennium. There are also new laws relating to border protection, human trafficking, cosmetic licenses, abortion, and much, much more. You can see the full list of bills going into effect on the [Texas Legislature Online Website](#).

One of the bills *not* going into effect on this date is H.B. 910, the bill relating to open carry. While a portion of this bill goes into effect today to assist in the logistics of the implementation of open carry, the majority of that bill goes into effect on January 1, 2016.

Rep. Huberty at TPPF's Event: *The Great Texas Land Grab*

August 27, Representative Huberty had the opportunity to speak on a panel at Texas Public Policy Foundation's (TPPF) event focusing on municipal annexations and the rights of voters. Rep. Huberty was joined by Senator Donna Campbell (R-San Antonio) and Mayor Art Martinez (Von Ormy, TX). The three panelists each had the opportunity to express their concerns about how municipal annexations are carried out in Texas currently.

Rep. Huberty began his ten minutes speaking about the annexations that have happened in Kingwood and Atascocita in the recent years, and how hard that's been on taxpayers in his community. "What we're seeing is taxation without representation," he said. "There are people in my home district that are paying taxes for services that they're not receiving. Something's got to change."

Sen. Campbell carried Senate Bill 1639, the companion bill to House Bill 2221 authored by Rep. Huberty. The two legislators worked hard to ensure that this legislation passed through the process. Unfortunately, neither bill passed. However, Sen. Campbell and Rep. Huberty are already working on how to ensure that this legislation passes next session, and to ensure that voters wants and needs are honored by the big cities trying to annex them.



Mayor Art Martinez, Rep. Dan Huberty, and Sen. Donna Campbell
at TPPF's event *The Great Texas Land Grab*.

Ed Dyess & Chris Kyle Honored with Texas Legislative Medal of Honor

Governor Greg Abbott posthumously awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle and Lieutenant Colonel Ed Dyess on August 27, 2105. The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the state or federal military forces by the State of Texas.

“America is the brightest beacon of freedom the world has ever known because of all who have honorably worn the uniform of the mightiest military in the history of the world,” Governor Abbott said. “For their remarkable valor and selfless service, it is my distinct honor to present the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Ed Dyess and Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle. We can never repay the debt we owe for the lives these men saved and the freedom they preserved, but today we honor their memory, their patriotism and their sacrifice.”

Christopher Scott Kyle was born and raised in Texas and was a US Navy SEAL from 1999 to 2009. He is currently known as the most successful sniper in American military history. According to his book *American Sniper*, he had 160 confirmed kills. Kyle served as a Navy SEAL in 4 tours in the latest Iraq war. For his bravery and military skills, he was awarded some of the highest medals in the US military multiple times including the Bronze and Silver Star. In 2009, Kyle decided to leave the SEALs and was honorably discharged. After some time struggling with civilian life, he started a security company called CRAFT and wrote the New York Times bestselling book, *American Sniper*. Kyle was murdered at a shooting range by a US military veteran he was trying to help on February 2, 2013 in Texas.



Taya Kyle, Wife of Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, accepting the award from Gov. Greg Abbott. Photo by Marjorie Kamys Cotera via the [Texas Tribune](#).

William Edwin Dyess, World War II flier, was born August 9, 1916, in Albany, TX. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and began assaults on Bataan and Corregidor, Dyess was thrust into combat in the Asian Theater as commander of all flying squadrons on Bataan. On March 3, 1942, in Subic Bay he sank a Japanese ship and damaged shore installations. As the enemy closed in, Dyess refused evacuation and



Elizabeth Dyess Denman, the sister of Lt. Col. Ed Dyess, accepting the award from Gov. Greg Abbott. Photo via the [Statesman](#).

remained with his men in the Philippines. On April 9, 1942, the American forces surrendered to the Japanese, and Dyess became a prisoner of war. He survived the horror of the Bataan Death March and imprisonment at camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan and the Davao Penal Colony. At Davao, Dyess and several other prisoners escaped on April 4, 1943. They contacted Filipino guerillas that led them to the submarine Trout on July 23. After returning home and staying in an army general hospital in Virginia to regain his health, Dyess was promoted to lieutenant colonel and resumed flying on December 22, 1943. He was killed that day in Burbank, CA, attempting an

emergency landing and was buried in Albany.

Policy Focus

While there were several policy areas that Rep. Huberty focused on this session, a major focus was protecting small business from federal overreach. These bills were great for our district, as well as our entire state. You can read briefly about Rep. Huberty's Policy Focus below:

Saving Troubled School Districts (H.B. 3106)

H.B. 3106, filed by Rep. Huberty gives the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner another option in dealing with troubled school districts. The new law allow for the Commissioner to add up to two additional years to the time period of which a school district is governed by a board of managers. TEA has used the Board of Managers in cases of corruption, financial crisis, and other major situations. The Board of Managers consists of local community experts.

Based on previous law, the TEA Commissioner could have relieved a local School Board of its management duties and brought in a new board or "Board of Managers" to fulfill the management duties of a school board for a failing district. The period for a board of governors to turn around a failing Independent School District (ISD) was two years. These two years were desperately needed for some situations. The closing of an ISD or annexing with another ISD were the next options for the Commissioner, if the board of managers did not succeed within the two year limit.

Research has proven that successful school reform models take three to five years, and annexing or closing failing ISDs impacts the students' morale and disrupts their education. Not only does closure negatively affect its students, but it can destroy communities, jobs and townships.

H.B. 3106 gives the TEA Commissioner the option to add *up to* two additional years on a board of governors term, should it be needed. This implementation is strictly on a case-by-case basis and is up to the discretion of the Commissioner.

(Please keep in mind that these bills are not the only bills that Rep. Huberty championed. There will be more in detail about the other bills he filed in upcoming newsletters.)

Constitutional Amendments - Nov. Ballot

Later this year, several constitutional amendments will be on the November Ballot. These amendments, approved by the Legislature earlier this year, require citizen vote. It is important to ensure that you voice your opinions on these matters through voting, as they will affect you greatly over the next few years.

Below, each amendment is outlined. Please click on the titles of each amendment to find out more information prepared by the Texas Legislative Council. On these pages, you can find summaries of the amendments. You can also learn how advocates believe the amendment will benefit the state, as well as how opponents think that it will not benefit the state. You can find the full document [here](#).

Additionally, before the November 3rd elections, it's important to know whether or not you're registered to vote. You can check if you're registered on the [Texas Secretary of State's Website](#). If you're not, be sure you take the time to register now, so that when November comes around, you're prepared.

[Amendment No. 1 \(S.J.R. 1\)](#)

The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, authorizing the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption, and prohibiting the enactment of a law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys fee simple title to real property.

[Amendment No. 2 \(H.J.R. 75\)](#)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect.

[Amendment No. 3 \(S.J.R. 52\)](#)

The constitutional amendment repealing the requirement that state officers elected by voters statewide reside in the state capital.

[Amendment No. 4 \(H.J.R. 73\)](#)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles.

[Amendment No. 5 \(S.J.R. 17\)](#)

The constitutional amendment to authorize counties with a population of 7,500 or less to perform private road construction and maintenance.

[Amendment No. 6 \(S.J.R. 22\)](#)

The constitutional amendment recognizing the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation.

[Amendment No. 7 \(S.J.R. 5\)](#)

The constitutional amendment dedicating certain sales and use tax revenue and motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund to provide funding for nontolled roads and the reduction of certain transportation-related debt.

New Driver Education Program Now Required for Teens

The Texas Department of Public Safety today announced the implementation of the Impact Texas Teen Driver program (ITTD), which is a new requirement for driver license applicants who complete a teen driver education course. The two-hour ITTD program contains several videos that provide awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

“Driving is one of the most dangerous things teens do on a daily basis, and it should command their undivided attention,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “This new component of teen driver education underscores the risks of distracted driving, and is designed to provide young and inexperienced drivers with additional information and skills to help keep them and others safe on the road.”

Beginning September 1, 2015, anyone who takes a teen driver education course – including Parent Taught Driver Education – must also complete the ITTD program, which consists of watching the video and printing out the ITTD completion certificate. ITTD should be completed after the classroom hours and all behind-the-wheel instruction, and it is the last step before taking the driving skills examination. (Individuals aged 18-24, who choose to complete a teen driver education course, must also complete the ITTD program.)

In order to take the driver skills examination, student drivers must present the ITTD completion certificate along with their driver’s education course certificate of completion. **The skills examination must be completed within 90 days of date on the ITTD certificate of completion.** DPS has been providing information about ITTD when student drivers apply for their learner’s permit.

For more information about ITTD or to complete the course, visit <https://impacttexasteendrivers.dps.texas.gov/>. You can also visit <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ittdPrgm.htm>.

Labor Day Safety Tips and DPS Crackdown

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is increasing DWI patrols Aug. 21 – Sept. 7, which includes the Labor Day holiday weekend. During this period, DPS troopers will focus DWI patrols in high-risk locations at times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

“Impaired drivers who take to the roadways put other travelers in harm’s way, and these increased patrols during the Labor Day holiday are designed to save lives by getting these dangerous drivers off the road,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “The department urges all drivers to do their part to keep our road and highways safe by obeying traffic laws and not drinking and driving.”

The increased patrols that target impaired driving are funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Labor Day holiday:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Eliminate distractions, including the usage of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle – it's the law.
- Slow down – especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire and EMS vehicles as well as tow trucks and TxDOT vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated – it's the law.
- Don't drive fatigued.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.

Constituents at the Capitol

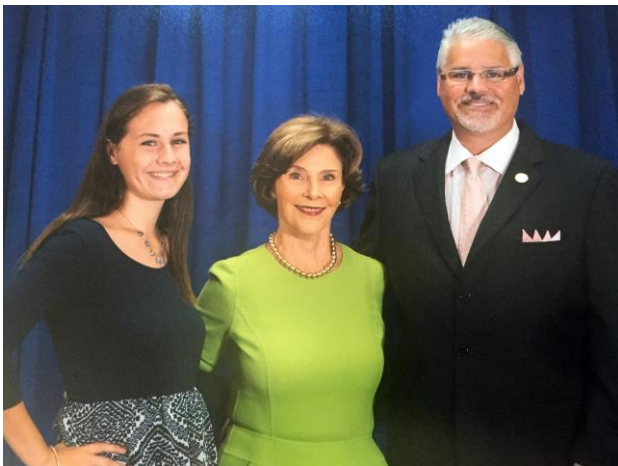
August was a slow month for Capitol visits from our favorite constituents of House District 127. If you would like to schedule a visit, give us a call at the Capitol Office. The capitol staff are more than happy to meet with you, schedule private tours, and show you around Rep. Huberty's Capitol office.

We look forward to visiting with you in September!

Family Focus

With the summer wrapping up, the Huberty family was very busy having as much family time together as they could before the Huberty kids all went back to school. Dylan received his ring for his select league, Brianna got to meet Former First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush with her dad, and Ryan prepped for his last year in middle school. August was a great month for the Huberty Family.

Rep. Huberty and Brianna with First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush



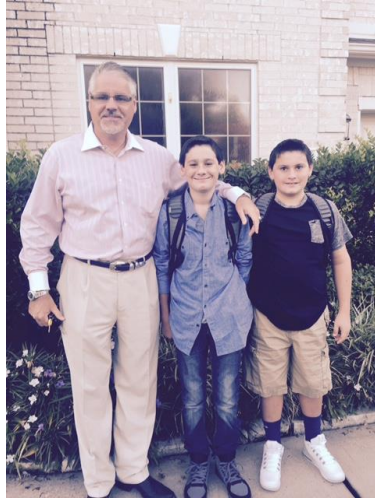
Rep. Huberty had the opportunity to speak with Former First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush at the Frog Street Early Education Annual Conference. With Brianna by his side, the Huberty family was able to get to know the Former First Lady.

Thank you to her office for the photo.

First Day of School



LEFT: Rep. Huberty and Brianna celebrating the first day of school. Brianna is beginning her Sophomore year at Atascocita High school.



RIGHT: Rep. Huberty, Dylan and Ryan on the first day of school. Ryan (8th) and Dylan (6th) are both at Atascocita Middle School this year.

Spending Time with Family



Dan and Janet enjoying the last few weeks of summer together with the family.

Thank you Armed Forces!



Janet and Brianna making "thank you" cards for our soldiers overseas with the Lake Houston Chapter of the National Charity League.

Football Fanatics



Dylan and his fellow War Eagles receiving their City Championship Ring from the Spring Select League. Congrats, gentlemen!

Rep. Huberty and Dylan at a Texans game earlier this month. Go, Texans!!!



House District 127 Events



August 13, 2015 - Celebrating the Grand Opening of the Multi-Purpose Center at the Village Learning & Achievement Center, made possible by the generosity of the Council Member Dave Martin and City of Houston Housing & Community Development.



August 18, 2015 (left) - Rep. Huberty with Congressman Ted Poe at the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's "Focus on the Federal Government."

August 20, 2015 (below) - Speaking at the American Subcontractors Association Legislative Luncheon with Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston).



August 22, 2015 (below) - Thanks to the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce and all of the 10K/5K participants for once again making this year's race a huge success!

August 26, 2015 (right) - Rep. Huberty giving a state of the state update to the Kingwood Area Republican Women.





August 29, 2015 - Rep. Huberty, Rep. Wayne Smith (R-Crosby), and Scott Stephens speaking about the importance of heart screenings for Texas student athletes.

"Go Big or Go Home!!"

Upcoming September Events

BizCom - Summer Creek

Presented by Lake Houston Family YMCA & Memorial Hermann NE

September 10, 2015
(11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Summer Creek BizCom meetings feature a blend of businesses, community members and school officials coming together to address specific needs and issues of the Summer Creek community. Area citizens, community organizations, businesses and other interested parties are welcome to attend. The event is free of charge provided and RSVP is made. A complimentary lunch from Chick-fil-A Wilson Road/Beltway 8 is included.

Five to seven speakers will offer quick but comprehensive updates on community happenings, developments and topics of concern.

Confirmed Speakers:

Nolan Correa, Summer Creek High School Principal
Plans for the 2015-2016 school year

Coach Brian Ford, Summer Creek HS Head Football Coach and Athletic Director
Projections for the 2015-2016 season

Kyle Yeary, Summer Creek High School Project Graduation Volunteer Leader
Explanation of Project Graduation activities for 2015-2016

Lieutenant Ganey, Pct 3 Constable's Office
Summerwood National Night Out activities

Debbie Karber, Fall Creek Neighborhood Crime Watch Committee
Fall Creek National Night Out activities

Peter Licata, TPC Real Estate
West Lake Village near Summer Creek High School

Michael Prats, Lake Houston Economic Development Partnership VP
Update on population growth and commercial development in the Summer Creek area including Generation Park, FMC Technologies, Fidelis Reality and ShowBiz Cinemas

Summer Creek BizCom Mission Statement: We seek to build positive community spirit by promoting involvement, safety, security and economic development in the Summer Creek area.

Admission: Free to attend. Lunch from Chick-fil-A is included provided an RSVP is made!

Location: Summer Creek High School, 14000 Weckford Blvd., Houston, TX 77044

Contact: Colleen Merritt at 281-446-2128; [Send an Email](#)

2nd Republican Presidential Debate
Debating the Future
Presented by Neighbors Engaging Neighbors

September 16, 2015
(7:00 p.m.)


Come and watch the 2nd Republican Presidential Debate, the Reagan Debate, with your family, neighbors, and friends. Join the discussion afterwards on what we heard, specifically what we liked and what we disliked. Then vote in a straw poll on WHO WON THE DEBATE and WHO YOU WOULD CHOOSE FOR PRESIDENT.

Admission: \$35.00 pre-sale, \$40.00 at the door. FIRST TIME VOTERS, ages 18-20 admitted free with parent. Purchase tickets online at:

www.neighborsengagingneighbors.com

Includes: Tex-Mex supper, one drink ticket (21 & over), cash bar.

Location: Kingwood Country Club -- 1700 Lake Kingwood Trail, Kingwood, Texas 77339.



Neighbors Engaging Neighbors
Presents
DEBATING THE FUTURE

Come and watch the 2nd Republican Presidential Debate, the *Reagan Debate, with your family, neighbors and friends.**

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Includes: Tex-Mex Supper, one drink ticket (21 & over), cash bar.

Sponsored by:

Wednesday, September 16, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Kingwood Country Club
1700 Lake Kingwood Trail
Kingwood, Texas 77339

*For more information on the Reagan Debates visit our website www.neighborsengagingneighbors.com

One Day Parenting Workshops
Presented by Strengthening Families Program

September 21, 2015

Strengthening Families Program is offering free monthly workshops to parents of children ages 5-12. Workshop covers communication, discipline and self-esteem. This class meets the requirement for divorce, CPS, or any court mandate. Certificate of Completion is given at the end of class. There is also another workshop on October 5, 2015.

Contact: Jennifer Garza for more information at (281)855-5600 or email jigarza@ag.tamu.edu.

Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce
State of the County Luncheon
Presented by McCord Development/Generation Park

September 22, 2015
(11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

From roads, transportation to parks and amenities, hear from Judge Ed Emmett on plans and initiatives affecting the Lake Houston Area.

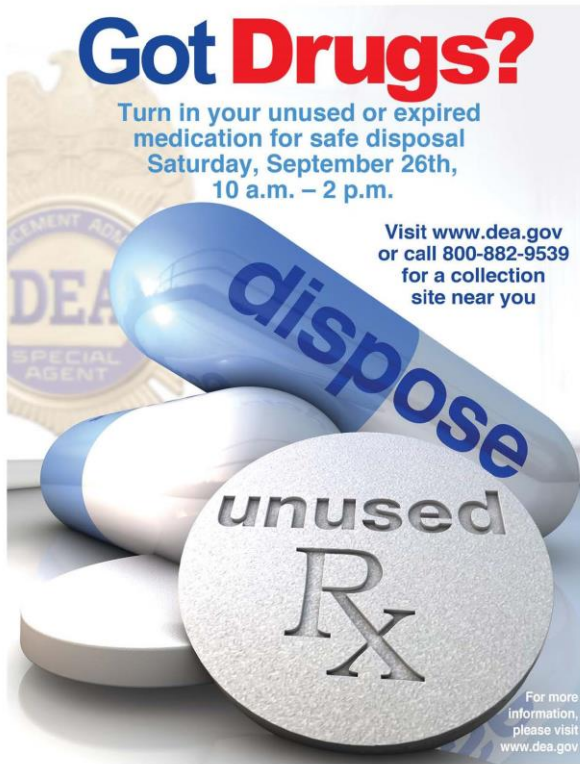
Edward M. Emmett became Harris County Judge on March 6, 2007. A member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1979 to 1987, Judge Emmett was chairman of the Committee on Energy, a member of the Transportation Committee, and represented the state on numerous national committees relating to energy and transportation policy. In 1989, President George H. W. Bush nominated Emmett as a Commissioner at the Interstate Commerce Commission. After being confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate, Judge Emmett served on the commission for three years. Prior to becoming county judge, he received international recognition for his work in transportation and logistics policy. Among his many other activities, Judge Emmett is director of Harris County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, chairman of the HGAC Transportation Policy Council and chairman of the Harris County Juvenile Board.

Judge Emmett attended Bellaire High School. He graduated from Rice University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 with a Master of Public Affairs degree. Judge Emmett and his wife, Gwen, have been married for 40 plus years and have four children and 12 grandchildren.

Admission: Deadline to register is 09-18-15 and is \$30 for members or \$35 for guests. Reservations made after the deadline are subject to availability and will be at the rate of \$35 for members or \$40 for guests.

Location: Kingwood Country Club -- 1700 Lake Kingwood Trail, Kingwood, Texas 77339.

Contact: Chris O'Dell at 281-446-2128; [Send an Email](#)



The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medication.

Location: Please Call 800-882-9539 to find your nearest pick up location.

We Hope to See You There!

Contact Information

Staff Contact

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